Adherence to safety norms

2243. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the complete disregard for safety norms by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) resulting in many scientists and technical assistants facing life threatening diseases from radio-active chemicals they handle;

(b) number of employees of CGD who died during last three years due to cancer and number of employees suffering from various skin diseases due to exposure to prolonged rediation; and

(c) fresh steps taken by Government to implement Atomic Energy Regulatory Board norms during handling of chemicals such as cesium, Gamma and Nutron by the employees of Central Geophysical Division for exploration of minerals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) The Geological Survey of India (GSI) scientists and technical assistants always follow safety norms while handling hazardous radioactive chemicals and equipments which generate radiation.

(b) No employee of GSI died or suffered from skin diseases due to exposure to such radiation during the last three years.

(c) GSI follows the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) norms for handling of hazardous radiation materials. Representative of AERB who inspected the Central Geophysical Division of GSI in August, 2002 found that the radiation levels are well within the prescribed limit and detected no loose contamination. The officials of the Central Geophysical Division wear spectacles, aprons and radiation monitoring badges while handling chemicals and instruments emitting radiation as precautionary measures.

Projects for recycling urban waste to Andhra Pradesh

2244. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any scheme to produce energy from the waste products of urban areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has sanctioned any project for recycling urban waste to Andhra Pradesh for making power under solid waste management; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is implementing a National Programme on 'Energy Recovery from Urban and Industrial Wastes'. Various fiscal and financial incentives are provided under this programme for setting up of projects for energy recovery from wastes. The incentives being provided include interest subsidy for reducing the rate of interest to 7.5% (4% in case of projects for municipal solid waste taken up by Urban Local Bodies) for commercial projects and capital subsidy of 50% of project cost limited to Rs. 3.00 crore per Mega Watt for demonstration projects based on innovative and emerging technologies.

(c) and (d) A project sanctioned by MNES for generation of 150 KW power from waste consisting of 16 tonnes per day of vegetable market waste and 4 tonnes per day of slaughter house waste is under installation at Vijayawada. Besides, MNES has accorded an 'in-principal' approval for providing interest subsidy for the following projects for generation of power from municipal solid waste in the State of Andhra Pradesh:

(i) 6.6. MW power project at Hyderabad by M/s SELCO International Ltd., Hyderabad.

(ii) 5.7 MW power project at Vijayawada by M/s Shriram Energy Systems Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad.

(iii) 11.0 MW power project at Hyderabad by M/s RDF Power Projects Ltd., Hyderabad.

Potential of wind energy in Andhra Pradesh

2245. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the potential of the wind energy in Andhra Pradesh; and